

[04] Frequently, large numbers of relatively inexpensive thin clients are deployed on a network, so that the device can be seamlessly shared amongst a large number of users. For example, thin clients are often used to connect a remote computing device to a local computing device, such as a Citrix® MetaFrame™ server. Briefly, Citrix® MetaFrame™ allows a user to run applications on a server from anywhere in the world, via a network. When applications are run, screen shots are sent to the remote computing device, and, in return, keyboard input and mouse movements are sent to the Citrix® MetaFrame™ server. Since the server does most of the application processing, a thin client can be used to operate software which is otherwise too big or too computationally expensive to be stored or executed on the thin client.

[05] With typical thin client applications, connection management software for administering a connection between a remote computing device and a local computing device is loaded on the remote computing device. This connection management software allows a user to add new connections, log on or off to local computing devices, and configure existing connections or properties of the remote computing device. As options for managing connections increase, users are presented with a multitude of non-standard and/or non-intuitive user interfaces for changing properties of a new or existing connection. In this regard, it would be helpful to provide a user interface which is standardized with existing user interfaces and intuitive to a user, to allow users or system administrators to easily manage connections between a remote computing device and a local computing device.

[06] As previously discussed, the vast majority of computer users are at least somewhat familiar with the Microsoft® Windows® family of operating systems. As such, one known technique for standardizing interfaces on remote computing devices is to use a connection manager bundled with a Windows®-based operating system designed for generic remote computing devices, such as the Microsoft® Windows® CE operating system. While these operating systems do provide a standardized connection management interface, these interfaces are not optimized for thin client devices, and as such their usefulness is limited. Specifically, conventional Windows®-based connection managers can be improved the following ways: